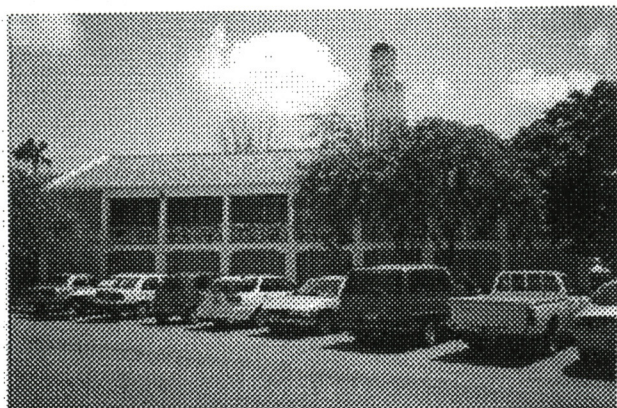


MONUMENTENBUREAU

Zoutmanstraat 1



HISTORY

Erected between 1910 and 1911 as a central government office building, called "Landskantorengewouw", by the Aruban government under supervision of the Department of Public Works of Aruba, which at the time formed part of the Curacao Public Works Department.

On September 10, 1910 the laying of the foundation stone took place, and the building was inaugurated on March 25, 1911.

From 1939 onwards the building also functioned as the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Aruba.

On the ground floor the customs officers could be found, and on the second floor the Lieutenant Governor, the tax collector, the civil registrar and population register, the latter two up and until 1934.

The building has had numerous residents and in 1920 quartered the post office, the telegraph office, the port authority, on the second floor the tax collector, the post office chief, the counsel for the prosecution, the marine surveyor etc. Court sessions were held and civil marriage ceremonies performed in a special council hall and courtroom.

In 1936 the public health department was established in this building.

In recent years it has been the home of the Aruban Archaeological Museum.

Its current tenants are the Monumentenbureau and the Stichting Monumentenfonds.

DESCRIPTION

A completely free standing building located on a lot bordered mainly by the junction of the Wilhelminastraat and Zoutmanstraat roads. The mainly symmetrical fronts display a strong horizontal and vertical rhythmical style and design details showing neo-classicism influences.

The building at the time of construction was situated near the coastline of the Paardenbaai bay.

In 1939 this coastline was moved further southward by human engineering.

The structure has been adapted and modified over the years. A notable change regards the staircase leading to the second floor. Currently on the right side of the gallery, the original was a mirror-image replica on the left side, originally built from wood and almost flush to the railing of the gallery, thus creating a corridor alongside the exterior doors of the offices. The outermost bays of this second floor were open and formed part of the gallery. During the last restoration they were closed and the resulting space utilized as office space. The outlines of the building have remained largely unchanged.

PROTESTANT CHURCH

Wilhelminastraat 1



HISTORY

This church was built in 1845-1846 for the Protestant congregation of Aruba, established in 1822.

Oldest of the church buildings in Aruba, it was built upon the foundations of a house purchased from the Arends family.

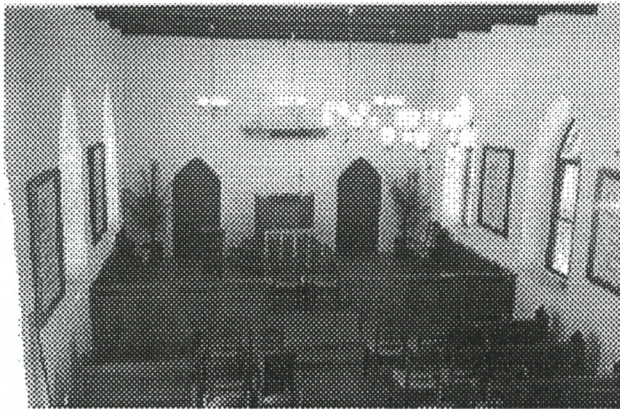
On June 30, 1822 the new religious teacher Klaas van Eekhout, appointed by royal decree, started providing religious services at the residences of J.H.G. Eman and C. Specht. After the acquisition of the Arends house, the latter was transformed into a domicile and church hall and on August 25, 1822 the first service was conducted there. A church bell was placed in one of the dormer-windows.

Lack of adequate space and the dilapidated state of the structure prompted the planning of the construction of a new church, the funds for which were collected, and in 1845 construction started

and on February 15, 1846 the newly erected house of prayer was consecrated. The old church bell broke during its transport. A generous gift from Commandeur Jacob Jarman made the purchase possible of a church bell from Coro, Venezuela. The new bell was placed in a belfry, erected on top of the roof in May 1856, which was commonly known as the "duiventil" (pigeon house). The Protestant congregation was handled by the Curacao parish until October 3, 1858, when Nicolaas Adrianus Kuiperi was appointed as the first preacher. Church ceremonies and services were held in the church until 1950, when a larger new church building was consecrated.

From 1988 to 1994 the old church was restored to nineteenth century settings.

Nowadays it is still used for intimate marriage ceremonies and church services.



DESCRIPTION

The old church was built according to traditional design and construction methods using hewn rocks and coral stone and is located on a large lot confined by the Wilhelminastraat, Schoolstraat, the Rifstraat and Klipstraat. The south front, portico and main entrance are situated on the Wilhelminastraat. In 1856 a belfry was placed on top of the church roof, which was replaced by a tower designed by Lieutenant Governor J.H. Ferguson, built in 1867. During the 1886 renovation, in which the church walls were increased in height, a tile roof was constructed. In 1934 a horizontal beam was placed under the balcony, resting on two concrete supports, built against the walls.

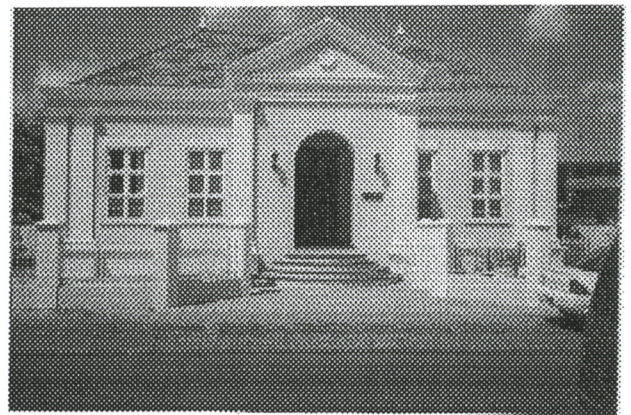
During the 1988-1994 restoration the current pews were transferred from a Dutch church.

The pulpit, the baptistery screen and the balustrade found on the church balcony, were made by Kees van Dijk in the Netherlands. Pastor den Doel also had the decorative wall plates with texts fashioned.

The organ was acquired with money received from a gift. Chandeliers, organ and current roof tiles all originate from the Netherlands. On the pulpit an image is found in a woodcarving depicting the Good Samaritan, inspired by a drawing by Rembrandt, dating from 1650, and executed by an Indonesian artisan from Djepara, Djawa. The windows were restored in the original style. In the portico a Dutch tile tableau designed and painted by Renske and Fred Patist can be found.

The original construction materials used cause an efflorescence of salts, which until recently was concealed by regularly painting the walls with a paint with a base of lime, aloe (binding agent) and pigment.

RAAD VAN ADVIES/ALGEMENE REKENKAMER Wilhelminastraat 6



HISTORY

Built originally as a school building for the first public elementary school in Aruba, it was commonly known as the "landsschool" (government school).

The ground-breaking ceremony was performed by Lieutenant Governor Gaerste on August 8, 1887.

On February 25, 1888 construction was completed and the school was opened on March 5, 1888.

At the time the school had no sanitary facilities whatsoever. The toilets and a schoolyard fence were installed in or around 1900.

On December 16, 1921 by government decree the school was named "Julianaschool", and after the latter named school moved to the Madurostraat, the school was renamed "Prinses Margrietschool".

During World War II a wide range of accommodations and facilities for the military were built alongside or adjacent to the building and thus the entire complex served as quarters for the national civil guard.

In 1952 the new Prinses Margrietschool was built at Ceru Blancu.

From the end of 1953 until mid-1955 the old building was radically restored and reconstructed to lodge the public library. From 1955 to 1982 the public library was established in the building.

Two government offices now reside in the building, the National Audit Office to the north (Wilhelminastraat) and the State Council to the south (Zoutmanstraat).

DESCRIPTION

A free standing building situated on a lot demarcated by the Wilhelminastraat, Schoolstraat and Zoutmanstraat roads. The old main entrance was situated in the Wilhelminastraat.

Designed by Antoine Martis (1837-1894), head of the Construction Department in Curacao in a neo-classicist style, and built between 1887 and 1888. Its construction required 500 cubic meters of quarry stones and gravel, 70 cubic meters of lime, 70 cubic meters of coarse sand, 50 cubic meters of clay, and wood, which arrived on a packet-boat from Curaçao.

Already during the construction it was established that the building would not meet the requirements set for number of pupils that would occupy the school, and thus a square annex under a helm roof was added to the construction plan, built against the southern side of the main structure building.

This part of the building can nowadays be found between the north and south wings of the building.

Around 1920-1922 two additional square annexes under helm roof were added to the south of the first annex, the former currently form the left and right parts of the south wing of the building.

Between these two last annexes a terrace with wooden partition wall under a lean-to roof was located, with a half-circular footway with flight of steps leading to this terrace.

The former playground at the south side was completely built-up. It currently forms the parking lot of the State Council.

During the restoration and reconstruction that took place between 1953 and 1955 the newest annexes and added facilities were removed. The space between the left and right southern annexes was closed, creating a continuous south front side in which five narrow vertical windows were installed of which two remain today on both sides of the current south portico. The south wing was provided with a saddle roof, the midsection between the north and south wing with a hipped roof. All the woodwork, windows and fences were replaced.

In 1982 a central portico was constructed against the south façade, in a style and design similar to the

north front entrance. From that moment on the building was equipped with two main entrances.

The interior of the building has been almost entirely modified and altered.

OLD PAPIAMENTO RESTAURANT

Wilhelminastraat 7



HISTORY

This villa, commissioned by Mr. Maximimilaan Frederico Arends and his wife, was built around 1936, and its design was modeled after that of a favorite building of Mrs. Arends, in Cartagena, Colombia.

Mr. Arends owned several ships and traded among other things with Colombia.

It was designed by master carpenter Medardo Picus (Dada Picus), and according to the carpenter's son, Gregorio Picus, much of the woodwork and wood components of the residence were built by Dada Picus himself from the cedar wood imported from Colombia.

It originally had two main views, one from the Schoolstraat and the other from the Wilhelminastraat.

This private mansion was extended several times, the first time to allow for an office for Mr. Arends, consisting of a single floor annex with adjacent terrace on the west front.

At a later stage a terrace structure was added for the benefit of the Papiamento Restaurant, which resided in the villa, on the Schoolstraat side and later another terrace structure and quarry stone closed spiral staircase on the Wilhelminastraat side.

An extension was also built against the north side of the residence.

The villa is now uninhabited and with all of its entrances and windows sealed.

DESCRIPTION

The villa was executed with neo-baroque style elements in the gables and two apices placed at right angles to the Wilhelminastraat, and overhanging eaves and consoles.

The main view on the Schoolstraat displays a flight of steps leading up to the villa, and a cornice-façade with a cornice crowned in the middle by a crest. The garden adjoining the villa on the west and south sides was separated from the public roads by a balustrade with open work geometrical forms, of which only the part bordering on the Wilhelminastraat remains.

Of the three ornamented wrought iron work entrance gates two are left.

During the period in which the Papiamento Restaurant was established in the villa, much of its interior was drastically altered, and many windows and entrances on the southern and eastern sides of the building were bricked up.

Many of the distinctive design features and architectural details of the villa are now hidden from view.

The mansion displays some striking similarities in design with the residence commissioned by Mr. Adison Winfield Croes at the end of the 1920's, constructed at Fergusonstraat 20.

CUBA'S COOKIN

Wilhelminastraat 27



HISTORY

As the date (1877) on the east-façade indicates, this typical CUNUCUHOUSE was built at the end of the 19th century in a traditional way. Probably

ever since this house was used for living in by a family, although many will remember that a tailor used to live and work in this house.

This house was expanded through the years. After a more recent renovation this house houses a Cuban specialty restaurant.

DESCRIPTION

Traditionally the cunucu house is built with the ridge facing east-to-west and the entrance on the south side. The roof of the house is a combination saddle- and lean-to roof, covered originally with Dutch ceramic roof tiles. If we take a look at old pictures of Oranjestad, you'll see a lot of these houses in the Wilhelminastraat. Also the Caya G.F.(Betico) Croes was completely built with these kind of houses.

Sad to say a lot of the typical details on these old Aruban houses are lost during the renovation. Lack of knowledge on the old methods used, details and material are to blame.

ARUBAN INVESTMENT BANK

Wilhelminastraat 34/36



HISTORY

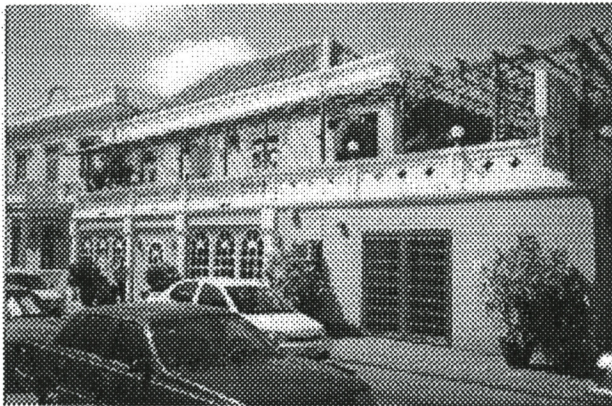
Two monuments as one. The two-story building with the three-story tower was built in 1935, has 20cm thick walls of poured concrete with blue stones. Behind the richly decorated faced lays an almost flat roof. On the second floor lays a wooden parquet floor. The lower level was used as a hard ware store and the upper level was the residence of the owner of the store Mr. Willem Frederik Craane. The top floor of the tower was an open space where the children of the family used to play.

The one-story building was a complete separate building, built in the beginning of the 19th century, has 40cm thick walls made up out of rock, clay and

caulk plaster. It has a typical saddle roof with Dutch clay tiles.

In 1997 the Aruba Investment Bank bought the two building, restored both and joined them together. Some later additions were demolished and all new additions were designed in a modern style to enhance the original architecture of the old buildings.

BOONOOONOOO'S **Wilhelminastraat 18**



HISTORY

This partially connected **MERCHANT'S HOUSE**, was built in the early 20th century by order of Mr. Gottfried Eman, was built with its ridge parallel to the Wilhelminastraat.

The ground floor has had an commercial function from the start. Probably something to do with the **aloe-industry**.

The second floor was used for living. On the East Side of the parcel there is a narrow passage, which leads to a court, where lies the entrances of some surrounding buildings. On the West Side there is another passage all the way to the back. Since a couple of years the building houses a restaurant.

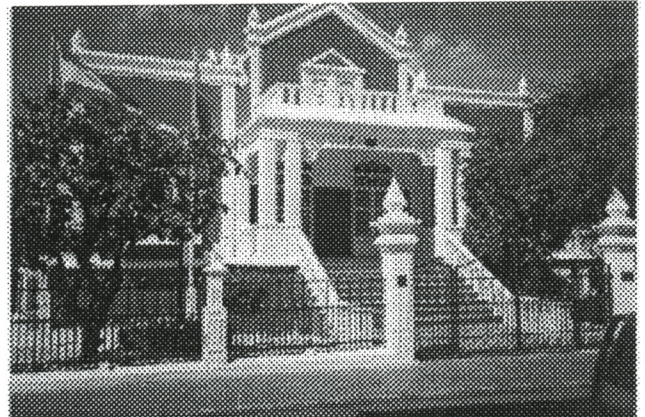
DESCRIPTION

The front façade of the building had an open gallery with columns, which was closed some time ago, which supports the above balcony. Remarkable is the fact that the same floortiles were used on the balcony of this and the adjoining building (Wilhelminastraat nr.24)

Also the classical label moldings and cantilever are identical to those of NR. 24, it is possible that in a later period of time the style of Wilhelminastraat 18

en 18A were adapted to that of Wilhelminastraat 24.

STADHUIS **Wilhelminastraat 8**



HISTORY

This Caribbean-Aruban styled mansion was erected between 1922 and 1925.

It contained the physicians' practice and private residence of Doctor Eloy Arends.

Eloy Arends commissioned the construction of the building before his marriage to Maria Monica Lacle. Tradition in well-to-do families in Aruba at the time stipulated that on the day of his marriage a man had to present his wife a new and fully furnished house.

The members of the Arends family had been living in Aruba since the middle of the nineteenth century, and as successful businessmen they were considered to be leading residents on the island.

Eloy Arends, who had studied medicine in Amsterdam upon his return to Aruba, became the first official government physician, thus breaking with the family professional tradition.

In social terms however he remained true to tradition, as many a social event and festivity was held at his residence at the Wilhelminastraat.

The house could literally be considered an open house, as folding walls inside the residence allowed a flexible use of indoor spaces.

Doctor Eloy Arends passed away in 1960, and his son Jesus Eloy Maria Arends took up residence in the manor, but would later rent the building as a restaurant.

In 1986 the estate was sold to the government of Aruba, together with the adjacent Hotel Colombia building with the stipulation that both the buildings would be restored. Over the years the building fell into ruin and later the roof was destroyed beyond repair by a large fire, and only ruins remained.

It was restored and combined with the Hotel Colombia building into a new complex, and currently houses a council hall and function spaces for the performance of among other things civil marriage ceremonies.

DESCRIPTION

Built between 1922 and 1925 as a Caribbean-Aruban styled mansion with a boundary consisting of fences and garden walls. Originally a free standing building situated on a lot delimited by the Wilhelminastraat, Schoolstraat and Oranjestraat and probably designed by Aruban master carpenter Medardo Picus, the latter conceivably also the supervisor of its construction, and even the contractor.

The main entrance is situated on the north side on the Wilhelminastraat.

The restoration, begun in March 1997, was the first major restoration project initiated and supervised by the Monumentenbureau, the Monumentenraad and Stichting Monumentenfonds.

The new design created by the architectural firm of Plan D2 (Earon Matthew) in collaboration with Arcotec (Anthony Rosenstand), called for the restoration of the exterior of the Arends residence and the neighboring Hotel Colombia. A single floor connecting building, of low-key contemporary design erected in glass and concrete was added to combine the Arends residence and the Hotel Colombia building into a new town hall building. Because of the functional requirements for the town hall, which entailed the creation of office space for the civil register and population register, as well as a council hall and other function spaces, the interior of the Arends estate was drastically changed



HOTEL COLOMBIA

Zoutmanstraat 13/Oranjestraat unnumbered



HISTORY

This building was constructed in 1918, and its original purpose remains a subject of study. Possibly it was built against the backdrop of the large stream of migrating workers in Aruba in the period 1916-1920. Job contracts for Venezuela were drafted and negotiated by Venezuelan government officials and the latter may have taken up residence in this building.

In 1919 L.J.M. "Nadi" Henriquez started an open-air movie theater in the vacant open space on the western part of the lot on which the building was erected. In December 1920 made an exchange with Eduard de Veer, where he traded his theatre for a player piano.

The building probably also functioned as a consular office and residence.

In 1922 the open-air movie theater annex music theater could still be found in the garden and the building itself, named "Pension Aruba", was used for room and board with most of the staying guests being Venezuelan merchants.

Around 1925, Doctor Eloy Arends acquired the building.

In 1953 it housed Drukkerij Excelsior (Excelsior Printing) and provided office space for the Venezuelan consulate.

Later the building became known as "Hotel Colombia", allegedly the first hotel in Aruba, and the name has stuck to this date.

After having served as a hotel, the building also accommodated the "Wine Cellar" restaurant.

Jesus Eloy Maria Arends, son of the doctor, sold the property and estate in 1986 to the Government of Aruba, with the condition that it would be restored to its original state.

Over the years the building fell into ruin and later the roof was destroyed beyond repair by a large fire, and only charred ruins remained.

In 1997 the restoration was started in which this building and the adjacent family residence of Eloy Arends would be combined into a new town hall building.

DESCRIPTION

Built in 1918 with a water tank and stone perimeter wall, situated at the corner of the Zoutmanstraat road (no. 13-15) and the Oranjestraat (unnumbered). The architectural design shows signs of neo-classicist influences.

The restoration was executed in accordance with a design created by the architectural firm of Plan D2 (Earon Matthew) in collaboration with Arcotec (Anthony Rosenstand).

The Arends residence and the Hotel Colombia building, both of which were in a very poor state were combined into a new complex by adding a single floor connecting building, of low-key contemporary design erected in glass and concrete. The restored and renovated complex now houses the Civil and Population Register, and is equipped with a council hall and function spaces for the performance of amongst others civil marriage ceremonies.

FORT ZOUTMAN AND WILLEM III TOWER Oranjestraat unnumbered



HISTORY

Fort Zoutman and the Willem III tower together form the oldest surviving historical structure in Aruba and a distinctive landmark in the past and current cityscape of Oranjestad.

In 1796 the English declared war against the Franco-Dutch alliance, and Johan Rudolf Lauffer, a Swiss, and former official of the Dutch West-Indian

Company, stationed in Curacao, called for the construction of harbor forts to protect the three Dutch Leeward Islands. Thus Fort Republiek (renamed Fort Nassau) in Curacao, Fort Oranje in Bonaire and Fort Zoutman in Aruba came into existence.

A fortification rather than a fortress, to withstand pirates, ward off land based attacks and quell insurrection, Fort Zoutman was built alongside the 18th century coastline of Paardenbaai, thus controlling the harbor entrance. Northwest of the garrison, a tiny town known as Playa, renamed Oranjestad, would evolve into the capital city of Aruba.

The fort, in a whim of military nostalgia, was named after Johan Arnold Zoutman, a rear admiral in the Fourth English War, in which the English were forced to retreat on August 5, 1781 in the North Sea.

Turbulent times ensued between 1796 and 1816, and because the French ruled the defunct Dutch Republic and its colonies, the English who had been at war with the Dutch, showed up regularly.

Thus in October 1799 Sir Edward Hamilton, a sea captain commanding the *Surprise*, anchored off the coast of Aruba, out of range of the fort cannon and ordered to seize a ship in the harbor, upon which the soldiers in the Fort opened fire on the marauders, who promptly left. On September 13, 1800 the English took possession of the Dutch Leeward Islands which were returned under the Peace of Amiens in January 1803. On June 28, 1803 war again broke out between Holland, France and England. In October 1804 the Englishman Mahling seized the fort, and made frequent visits to Aruba until he was driven out by an expedition led by Changuion, governor of the Dutch Caribbean colonies.

The main goal of Changuion and his men was to evacuate Aruba and level the fort, thus rendering the island useless to the marauding English. History took a different turn and in November 1805 the English left, only to restore their rule on January 11, 1806, and finally leave on March 11, 1816 when Aruba was officially returned to the newly created Dutch Kingdom. The fort found to be in a deplorable state was restored by order of Commandeur Plats in 1826.

After 1834 the Fort was no longer used by the military, the latter having been replaced by a National Civil Guard.

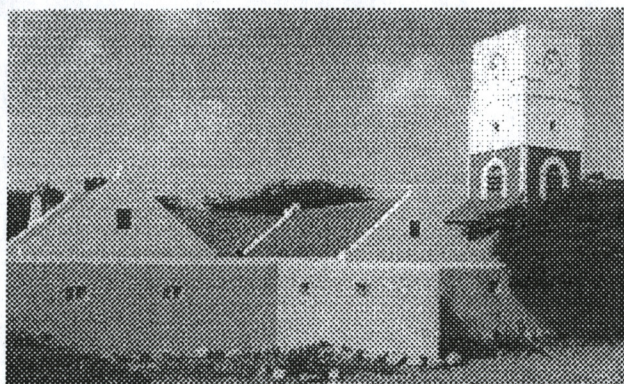
In 1859 several officers of the law took up office in the Fort and prison cells were built inside the fort compound against the eastern and western walls, of which three remain today, and in 1866 Lieutenant Governor Ferguson requested a wooden bell tower

to be built. Instead a stone lighthouse was constructed in front of the main gate of the old fort. The lighthouse tower, named after William III, King of the Netherlands, was put into service on February 19, 1868, the birthday of William III.

From 1868 to 1945 numerous government offices were housed in the fort and tower. In 1874 the old guardroom functioned as a court and council room, and the tax collector, doubling as the registrar and the counsel for the prosecution, kept office in the old barracks. In 1908 the post office was placed in the fort.

In 1911 with the advent of a new government building, the tax collector, the civil registrar and court registrar and post office moved out. Between 1928 and 1931 the telegraph office was briefly housed in the old tax collector's office. In 1934 the police moved to their new headquarters and only the prison remained which was closed after 1945.

Between 1945 and 1949 the Public Works Department used the fort as a storage facility. Between 1961 and 1970 a decision was made to create an Aruban Historical Museum to be placed in the fort compound, with the latter to be restored to its original state.



DESCRIPTION

The design of the fort is unusual because of its rectangular shape and the unique triangle shaped fortifications (bastions) from which military could flank the walls from enemy fire. Built by unknown architects in 1796 from pebbles, quarry stones and lime mortar, it had gun ports with four light cannon on the western side of the fort, covering the harbor. On the south side a much lower rampart created the appearance of an enclosed rectangular fortress with only three walls. The main gate was located where we now find the Willem III tower. Within the garrison walls a guardroom, barracks and magazine were erected, and a kitchen and water tank.

The tower was built in 1868 on a square floor plan from rubbles, quarry stone and coral stone, utilizing lime mortar, and at the time had four floors. The lighthouse light was placed in an octagonal structure erected on top of the fourth floor, which was replaced in 1885 by a wooden helm roof. In 1930 the wooden roof was replaced by a high stone structure.

In 1937 the fifth floor segment, weighing a massive 45 tons was added.

Originally the fourth floor, the overhanging moldings, which accentuate the separation between the floors, the corner pilaster strips, and the semi-circular closed arches, framing the entrance and vertical windows with venetian blinds were colored white. The ground floor sides were colored light sky-blue and the second and third floors were painted maroon.

Over time the colors changed. During the last restoration the original color scheme was restored.

Restoration of the fort and tower unofficially starts in 1971 and gets off the ground in 1974. All the newer structures are removed and the foundations of the original guardroom, barracks and magazine are excavated on which the old buildings are reconstructed from old drawings and photographs. In 1979 the fifth floor segment is removed by a crane and a new identical segment weighing only 16 tons is hoisted on top of the fourth floor.

On August 23, 1984 the official inauguration of the Museo Arubano in the fully restored fort and tower by Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, takes place and Fort Zoutman and the Willem III tower reclaim their eminence and place in history and architecture in Aruba.

COLOPHON

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